

The Line



Summer Issue is Here!

- Drug Courts In Their Communities!
- Conferences!
- Criminal Justice Reform!

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Summer Issue

June 2015

Legislative Update

The 90th General Assembly convened from January to May of 2015. During the session, several pieces of legislation related to drug courts became law. The largest piece of legislation was the Governor's crime reform bill, Act 895 of 2015.

The Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2015, created several task forces charged with delving into the various issues effecting crime in Arkansas. Part of the act created the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee. This committee replaces the Drug Court Advisory Committee. The law details the responsibilities of the committee, the intent of the committee and who shall be a member.

The primary responsibilities established for the Committee include promoting collaboration and providing recommendations on issues involving adult and juvenile specialty courts; as well as design and complete the comprehensive evaluation of adult juvenile specialty court programs as required by §16-10-139.

The Act defines "specialty court programs" broadly and includes all of the specialty court dockets operated in circuit and district courts, so long as those programs have been included in the circuit and district administrative plans approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Story continued Pg 2

Arkansans at National Drug Court Conference

Over fifty drug court professionals from the state attended the National Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference in Washington DC from July 27th through July 30th. The annual event drew over 5,000 attendees. Professionals received training on the best practices for adult drug courts, current research, and evaluation processes among others.

Statewide Drug Court Conference Held in April

The Statewide Drug Court Conference was held on April 8 and 9th at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock. The event was a overwhelming success for the collaborative effort of the Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts. The training had record attendance of nearly 250 people in a variety of drug court related professions from across the state. Adult drug court, juvenile drug court, veterans treatment court, Swift, HOPE and DWI court professionals all attended the multi-track training. Conference planners worked diligently to provide varied content that was both interesting and supportive of best practices. Experts across the state and nation were present to provide attendees with a quality two day training.

Governor Asa Hutchinson acted as keynote speaker and briefed attendees on his criminal justice reform initiatives. As with last year, awards were presented to Drug Court Professionals of the Year with categories for Judges, Attorneys, Treatment, Probation Officers, Coordinator and Administrative Staff. Award winners are as follows: Treatment Professional– Kayla Beck; Judge– John Dan Kemp; Officer– Michael Hall; Attorney– Jason Mitchell; Admin/Coordinator – Cindy Dickey. *Pictures can be found in the Gallery.*

"This year's state conference was the best yet. I look forward to this event every year!"— Lisa Bell, Pocahontas

Legislative Update cont...

plans approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

The Act requires a comprehensive process for evaluation of all specialty court programs. The Committee has the responsibility of developing, implementing and sharing evaluations. The evaluations conducted must reflect nationally recognized and peer-reviewed standards for each particular type of specialty court program.

The Committee must also establish, implement and operate a uniform evaluation process to ensure resources are uniformly directed to high-risk and medium-risk offenders. The Committee will ensure that programs provide effective and proven practices that reduce recidivism, as well as other factors such as substance dependency. The evaluation process will ensure that any new and existing specialty court program that is a drug court meets standards for drug court operations under §16-98-302(b); and develop rules to be approved by the Supreme Court to carry out the evaluation process.

In addition to the criminal reform act, laws effecting driving privileges for specialty court participants were also passed. Act 1193 becomes effective on January 1st, 2016. Act 1246 became effective July 22 this year.

A brief summary of Act 1193, an Act to Amend the Law Concerning Driver's License Reinstatement Fees states that if a person's driving privileges are suspended or revoked solely as a result of outstanding driver's license reinstatement fees imposed, only one reinstatement fee of one hundred dollars will be collected.

A district or circuit court must verify that the person paid all other court costs, fines and fees associated with the criminal offense that led to his or her driver's license suspension; and successfully completed a court-ordered diversion program; or a drug court program; or a diversion program for veterans; or a pre-adjudication probation program; or any other court-ordered program designed to rehabilitate the person.

A brief summary of Act 1246: an Act Authorizing the Issuance of a Restricted Driver's License upon Suspension of the Driver's License of a Specialty Court Program Participant states that for a person holding driving privileges issued by the State of Arkansas, a court;

within the State of Arkansas may provide in an order for the issuance of a restricted driving permit to allow driving to and from specific locations. The allowed locations include mandatory court appearances; mandatory random drug testing; places of employment or as required in the scope of employment; scheduled session or meeting of a support or counseling organization; an educational institution for the purpose of attending a class if the person is enrolled in a course of study or program of training at the educational institution; a treatment program for persons who have addiction or abuse problems related to a substance or controlled substances; doctor, hospital, or clinic appointment or admission for medical treatment or care for an illness, disease, or other medical condition of the person or a family member; or enrollment, compliance, and participation in a specialty court program if the person is accepted into a specialty court program.

Courts within the state shall prepare and transmit to the Department of Financial Services an order for a restricted driving permit issued under this section within 3 business days after the entry of the order.

There are exclusions and exceptions listed within the law that will need to be taken into consideration before any permits are issued.

Lastly, the General Assembly created a new "Accountability Court Fund" and provided an appropriation of \$2.8 million to be used for adult and juvenile specialty court programs based upon a funding formula developed by the Arkansas Judicial Council, reviewed by the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee, and approved by the Legislative Council.

A Fighting Chance for Change-Veterans Treatment Court

Staff Sgt. Tommy Rieman is an American hero, a recipient of a Silver Star for valor in Iraq. But the bravest thing he ever did was fight to get is life back with the help of a Veterans Treatment Court. Rieman had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (or PTSD) and alcoholism. Rieman was arrested for drunk driving, but instead of being sent to a regular civilian court, he was referred to the Veterans Treatment Court, modeled after other civilian specialty courts around the country, such as drug treatment courts that were designed to keep non-violent offenders out of jail. It is estimated one in five vets who fought in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from PTSD or depression. One in six has an issue with substance abuse. Rieman got the treatment that he needed through Veterans Treatment Court and their programs which include the assistance of a mentoring vet. *Story continued Pg 3*

YOU IN 10!

The You In 10 spotlight for Summer falls on to Hot Springs Drug Court Probation Officer, **Michael Hall**.

Read the following interview to learn more about Officer Hall.

The Line: Where are you from originally? *Hot Springs, AR*

TL: Do you have any hobbies? *I enjoy watching baseball (Go Cubs)*

TL: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 things would you absolutely want to have with you? *My wife, lots of water, and food (we'd make it a vacation)!*

TL: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? *If I hit the lottery, I will be on the beaches of Amelia Island, Florida! If I don't hit the lottery, I still hope to be working in some type of specialty/treatment court.*

TL: If you could do any other career what would it be and why? *I would work for the Chicago Cubs baseball team. I am a huge Cubs fan and it would be a dream to work for them!*

TL: Do you have any pets? What kind? *Yes, two dogs (Molly and Max). Molly is a fudge pup and Max is Australian Shepherd/Lab mix.*

TL: What is your favorite part of working in a drug court? *I like the fact that drug courts work! Drug Courts provide probationers the structure they need to become law abiding citizens by holding them accountable and making them take responsibility for their actions.*

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TL: What is one thing about you that people are surprised to learn? *Oddly enough, I know the words to the Canadian National Anthem.*

TL: If you could travel to any location, where would you go and why? *While Chicago would be in the running, I would have to pick Amelia Island, Florida. I was fortunate enough to attend a clinical conference in Amelia Island and fell in love. I'm more of a beach guy than a snow guy.*

TL: Who inspires you? *I was inspired by the late Dr. Charles Chastain, a professor of Criminal Justice at UALR. While I was attending UALR, Dr. Chastain was very helpful in all aspects of my degree program and career placement.*

Thank you Officer Hall for sharing about yourself!

Veterans Treatment Court cont...

There are now 220 military treatment courts across 36 states. A judge in Buffalo, New York established the first one in 2008. The program demands accountability. If a vet completes it (which often takes more than a year), the sentence for the crime is reduced or forgiven. Roughly 11,000 vets are now receiving help through Veterans Treatment Courts. Rieman states: "I've got my life back in order, and I have a job. I have a home. I'm seeing my kids every weekend. I'm sober—that's the greatest thing. I feel like I'm living again. For years, I didn't know what that was like."

Content courtesy of CBS news. For more info: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/giving-an-iraq-vet-a-fighting-chance/2/>

Local Drug News

Faulkner Co Drug Court:

The Faulkner County Drug Court has started a pro-social healthy activity with their participants. They have organized a kickball team that participates in games with the local kickball league. Katy Stark, ACC Advisor for the program, reports that participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Hot Springs Drug Court:

Drug Court personnel, Advisor Chris Skrivanos and Officer Michael Hall are traveling to Florida to attend the C.O.R.E. Conference this summer. They will be joined by Malvern Drug Court personnel as well. The conference focuses on providing training on substance abuse and addiction issues for professionals.

Mississippi Co Drug Court: For the first time ever, the Mississippi County Drug Court participated in the 2015 South Mississippi County Relay for Life. The Misfits, as the team voted to call themselves, worked together to design the team's t-shirt and banner prior to the race, reflecting the race's theme "Lasso a Cure." Drug Court Judge Ralph Wilson Jr. carried a purple beribboned gavel as the team's Spirit Stick.

The project was selected by the Drug Court Team as part of the team's 40-hour Community Service project required in Phase 4 of Drug Court. Participants will receive credit for six hours of community service for the Relay.



[More Pics in gallery](#)

The Community Service project provides Team members a chance to "give back" to the community. Plus, the Relay allowed members of the public to learn more about Drug Court and how it can help offenders and the community itself.

Those on the team who participated were: Rudolph Zangerl III, Gary Tacker, James Ford, Joe Ralph, Charles Adamson, Angela Perkins, and Bruce Stabbs. Also participating were: Robin Haight-Angel and Heather Godair, probation officers; Tarsha Smith-Cook, counselor; Donna Loyd Hilton, ASII; Monica Fines of NEACCC; Prosecutor Catherine Dean and Judge Wilson.

Members of the team and their families appeared to enjoy the activities of the Relay, and appreciated the opportunity it provided to help them bond together as a team. "It was really great that we got to get together outside of class and court," one team member stated. "I hope we get to do more things like this."

Sebastian Co Drug Court:

A Celebration of Drug Court month was held on Friday June 5 in Ft. Smith. The Sebastian Co Drug Court set up a dunking booth and refreshments for the local community. Judge J. Michael Fitzhugh, Advisers Frankie Farmer, Tara Blentinger & Bert Johnson, Prosecutor Robert McClure, Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck, Alan Marx from the Drug Task Force were among the ones who were dunked. Courage to Change provided the Cook & Set up for the Hot Dogs as well as the PA system. On July 12th, the program held a softball game as a pro-social healthy activity. The game pitted the Drug Court Team professionals against the Drug Court Participants. At the time of this publication, the winner of the game is unknown. With these types of activities, each player is a winner!





Hope Drug Court: An update on the organic farm managed by the Hope Drug Court has them now enrolled in the National Organic Initiative via the United States Department of Agriculture. Through the EQUIP Program they qualify for federal funding. The USDA is laying water lines as the farm was deemed a "High Priority" for the EQUIP Program. In the following weeks, the farm will begin selling organic produce to "farm to table" restaurants in Little Rock.

National News

DEA ANNOUNCES LARGEST-EVER PRESCRIPTION DRUG OPERATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration news release dated May 2015 reports that DEA and federal prosecutors announced unprecedented enforcement action across the states of Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi in an effort to reverse the horrible effects produced by the trafficking and abuse of pharmaceuticals. As part of this effort, dubbed Operation Pilluted, 22 doctors and pharmacists were arrested in the 15-month operation which involved nearly a thousand law enforcement officers across the four states. 280 arrests took place total across the four states as part of the operation. Registrants and others involved in prescribing, obtaining, and distributing dangerous and addictive controlled substances such as Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and Xanax. (A Registrant is a person authorized by DEA to prescribe, dispense, and administer controlled substances.)

In 2013, approximately 43,982 unintentional drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, one death every 13 minutes. Nearly 52 percent of those deaths (22,767) were attributed to prescription drugs. Of these, 71 percent (16,235) were attributed to opioid overdoses.

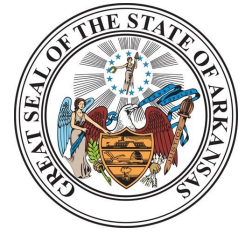
"The doctors and pharmacists arrested in Operation Pilluted are nothing more than drug traffickers who prey on the addiction of others while abandoning the Hippocratic Oath adhered to faithfully by thousands of doctors and pharmacists each day across this country."

In addition to the arrest of 22 doctors and pharmacists, DEA took action to remove or restrict the ability of the targeted DEA Registrants to prescribe or dispense controlled substances. As part of Operation Pilluted, DEA issued 2 Immediate Suspension Orders and obtained the voluntary surrender for cause of an additional 40 DEA Registrations.

The doctors and pharmacists arrested were part of a total of 280 individuals arrested on Federal and state charges related to their illegal pharmaceutical trafficking activities. 21 search warrants were executed across Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. 51 vehicles, 202 weapons, and \$404,828 in cash were seized in the operation. 73 seizure warrants were executed which resulted in the seizure of \$11,651,565 USC and \$6,745,800 in real property.

Content courtesy DEA news release available in full at www.dea.gov

"The doctors and pharmacists arrested in Operation Pilluted are ... drug traffickers who prey on the addiction of others while abandoning the Hippocratic Oath adhered to faithfully by thousands of doctors and pharmacists each day across this country." — DEA Special Agent Keith Brown



What's New with Your ADCPA Board?

The Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association (ADCPA) hosted its annual conference in Little Rock in early April. At this annual conference, our general membership elected new members to fill some of the vacancies on our ADCPA board. Listed below are the current ADCPA board members listed by congressional district.

Congressional District 1: Judge John Dan Kemp, Attorney Eric Bray, Officer Tara Sharp, Treatment Professional Toni Baker, At Large Tammy Harris

Congressional District 2: Judge Bobby McCallister, Attorney Andy Gill, Officer Deborah Gorham

Congressional District 3: Judge Jerry Don Ramey, Attorney Robert McClure, Officer Elizabeth Carter, Treatment Professional Kayla Beck, At Large Shirl Page

Congressional District 4: Judge Berlin Jones, Attorney Lisa Parks, Officer Michael Hall, Treatment Professional Catherine Crigger, At Large Lisa Wells

Our board member officers are President- Judge Jerry Don Ramey, Vice President- Judge John Dan Kemp, Secretary- Officer Lisa Wells, and Treasurer- Officer Tara Sharp.

Please feel free to contact your local board members with any major concerns for review by our board. Our board meetings are held quarterly with our next meeting scheduled for September 2015.

Our ADCPA board is already hard at work planning our conference for the year 2016. Mark your calendars for the dates of our 2016 conference. **Our annual conference will be held on April 13-14, 2016 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock, AR.**

Another exciting set of events the ADCPA board is providing for FREE for its membership for the first time this year are the **"Arkansas Regional Flash Trainings."**

The training sessions this year will be based on Operational Tune-Up of your drug courts. The training sessions will begin at approximately 8:30am and conclude at approximately 4:30pm. We will be sending out registration information within the next month so be on the lookout to get registered for the training day in your region! The training dates and locations are as follows:

September 29, 2015: Sebastian County Office of Emergency Mgmt Facility, 8400 Zero, Fort Smith, AR

September 30, 2015: AR Community Correction Office, 615 W. Grand Ave, Ste 1, Hot Springs, AR

October 1, 2015: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

October 2, 2015: University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

The ADCPA hopes you all are having a spectacular summer and we look forward to seeing you all at our **Arkansas Regional Flash Trainings!**

THE LINE

Nominees for Treatment Professional of the Year (L to R): Kayla Beck, Greg Marshall, Toni Baker, Randy Jo Nielsen, Michelle Barrett, Teresa Pribilski, Susan Hathcote, Chris Skrivanos, Zabrina Weaver



Drug Court Treatment Professional of the Year Award Winner Kayla Beck
(with presenter Kari Powers)



THE LINE

Nominees for Drug Court Judge of the Year (L to R): Judges Cindy Thyer and John Dan Kemp.



Drug Court Judge of the Year Award: John Dan Kemp.



THE LINE

Photo Gallery

Nominees for Drug Court Officer of the Year (L to R): Kristy Beasley, Jo Frederickson, Younee Faulkner, Michael Hall, Deborah Gorham, Trocky Ibert, William Titsworth, Candy West, Tara Todd, Deborah Dunn James



Drug Court Officer of the Year Award: Michael Hall

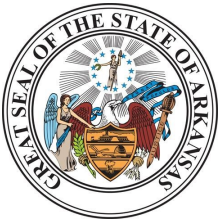


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Pictured Above L to R, Nominees for Drug Court Attorney of the Year: Jason Mitchell and Lisa Parks.

Pictured Below: Drug Court Attorney of the Year Award: Jason Mitchell



Nominees for Drug Court Administrative/ Program Coordinator of the Year: (L to R)
Julie Sanders, Colleen Mattox, Eva Frame and Cindy Dickey



Drug Court Administrative/ Program Coordinator of the Year Award: (L to R) Cindy
Dickey



THE LINE

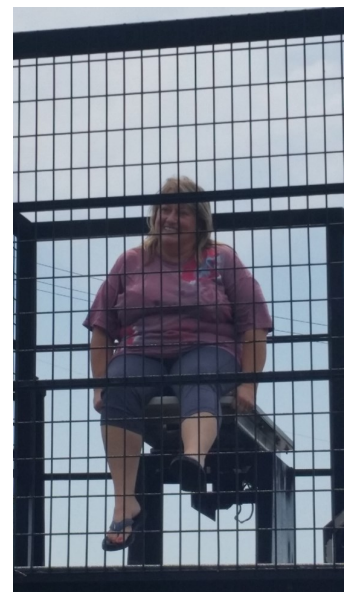
Photo Gallery



Pope Co Drug Court:
On May 15, The Pope
County Drug Court
hosted a community
education event
centered around drug
court topics. Pictured L
to R: Janice Burnside,
Johnson Co Drug Court
Advisor; Pope County
Drug Court Judge
Dennis Sutterfield ; Pope
Co Drug Court Advisor
Mike Chumley; Pope Co
Drug Court Advisor
Kayla Beck.



Pictured Below and Right: Members of the Sebastian
County Drug Court and Sebastian County Sheriff's
Office.



THE LINE

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Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to *The Line*, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400.

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We're On The Web!
<https://courts.arkansas.gov/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC) supports the information technology, training, juvenile support services, drug court services, language and advocate services of the Arkansas court system. The courts served include the District Court to the Arkansas Supreme Court and its boards and committees.

Webinars and Resources

American University Drug Court
Practitioner Webinars at:

<http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/videos.php>

“Translating Drug Court Research into
Practice” at:

<http://research2practice.org/>

NDCI’s “Tune In Tuesdays” Webinar series:

[http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/
webinars](http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/webinars)

And other useful links.....

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/drug-court>

www.drugfree.org

